New Postal Circle

1099. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to create some new postal circles and new postal divisions during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) At present, there is no proposal to create new postal circles or new postal divisions during 1996-97 due to ban on creation of non-plan Posts.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Disturbed Area Allowance

1100. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) whether Disturbed Area Allowance is being provided to the employees of Doordarshan and All India Radio posted in disturbed areas;

(b) if so, the amount of allowance paid during each of the last three years, State-wise, Kendra-wise separately;

(c) whether the Government propose to make any other arrangement in its place;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Stoppage of Vidarbha Express at Thane

1101. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the public or any public institutions from Thane with a request to allow the stoppage of Vidarbha Express running between Mumbai and Nagpur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received including from Shri Jayant S. Deshmukh, Goverdhan Envirotech Private Limited; Shri P.S. Nagrajan, Vice President, Bhartiya Janata Party, Mumbai; Shri Datta Meghe, M.P.; Shri Mukesh Patel, MP; Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar, MP; Shri Hansraj Ahir, MP; Shri Sharad Tasare, Deputy Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly; Shri Kirit Somaiya, MLA; Shri P. Dhole, MLA; etc. for stoppage of 1005/1006 Nagpur-Mumbai CST Vidarbha Express at Thane station. The same has been examined but not found operationally feasible.

Fake Railway Counters at Railway Stations

1102. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that fake Government tourist counters are functioning at the Railway Stations in the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the passengers are lured by these fake tourist counter officials for making available the accommodation; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Loss Incurred by Railways

1103. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps and decisions taken by the Government to reduce or eliminate the losses on uneconomic Railway lines, indicating the details of such lines;

(b) the losses incurred on these lines during 1994-95, 1995-96 and estimated to be incurred during 1996-97, and

(c) the likely impact of these steps on the economy of these Railway lines and on the Railways as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) On the basis of the review done during 1994-95, 119 branch lines were found to be uneconomical. Since the State Governments are reluctant to agree to the closure of these lines, some steps have been taken to reduce/eliminate losses on the uneconomic lines which include closure/conversion of Stations not remunerative, into halts, running of mixed (passenger and goods) trains, economising on staff, curbing ticketless travel, introduction of rail bus service, etc.